has also been taken to import silk yarn to bring about moderation in silk yarn prices in the country.

(iv) Existing fiscal measures to increase the competitiveness of the handlooms include complete exemption from excise duty of plain reel hank yarn, concession in excise duty on double cross reeled hank yarn for registered hondloom cooperative socities and State level Corporations. Fiscal measures also include complete or partial concession in duties on processing of fabrics made on handlooms. In the new budget, fiscal concessions have been given to facilitate reeling of yarn into hank form outside the mill premises.

Implementation of the project of 'Shilp Gram' by Rajasthan Government

609. SHRI B.L. PANWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to direct the State Government of Rajasthan to implement the project of 'Shilp Gram' at Jodhpur which is pending since long for the upliftment of artisans;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide Central Assistance to complete this project, if so, what will be the amount of such assistance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to direct the State Government of Rajasthan to implement the project of 'Shilp Gram' at Jodhpur. However, the proposal to set up two Urban Haats for Handicrafts at Jodhpur and Amber received from Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation has been approved.

(b) The main objective of organising these two Haats at Jodhpur and Amber is to provide an opportunity for direct commercial interaction between the buyers and the craftsmen/artisans who are living in remote areas of Rajasthan. These Urban Haats would function for 4 months (from October 15 to February 15) every year.

(c) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 6,97,500 being 75% of the total project cost of Rs. 9.30 lakhs has been sanctioned to Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation for setting up of the two Urban Haats at Jodhpur and Amber.

Insurance of Handloom Weavers in Andhra Pradesh

610. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether 12,000 handloom weavers in the districts of Prakasam and Guntur in Andhra Pradesh have been covered by insurance as announced by Government as a measure of relief to handloom weavers and

(b) if so, what are the details of the schemes as approved by the L.I.C. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b) A sum of Rs. 7.20 lakhs as Central share was released to Government of Andhra Pradesh to cover 12,000 handloom weavers in Krishna, Prakasam and Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh under Group Insurance Scheme. The State Government has reported that they have held discussions with the Life Insurance Corporation, and are in the process of identifying nodal agencies who would collect contributions towards premium from the weavers on a regular basis.

Construction of Houses by Handloom Weavers

611. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is a scheme for construction of houses by handloom weavers in cooperatives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether representations have been received from handloom weavers and their organisation to increase the quantum of assistance by way of loan and subsidy to the extent of Rs. 25,000 per house; and

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India introduced the Centrally Sponsored Scheme called "Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme" for handloom weavers from the beginning of Seventh Five Year Plan i.e. 1985-86. The scheme is implemented primarily, with a view to provide suitable work-place to the weavers and in turn to achieve better productivity. The scheme is implemented by respective State Governments through either handloom Apex Cooperative Societies, handloom development corporations, primary societies or any specialised agencies set by concerned State Governments for execution of such projects.

(c) and (d) As a result of number of requests received from various State Governments and handloom agencies to enhance the unit cost and Government subsidy share for construction of House-cum-Workshed and keeping in view the escalation in the cost of construction, the Government of India has modified the Workshed-cum-Housing scheme for the year 1991-92. Under the new modified scheme unit cost of each category of house and workshed has been revised upwards. Central subsidy portion has been also revised substantially to give a boost to the programme and relief to the weavers. Present funding pattern of the scheme is as given below :—

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Cost of unit	Max. central subsidy	Loan	Weavers contribution
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Workshed	5,000	4,000	—	1,000
2	Rural Housing-cum-Workshed	20,000	14,000	5,000	1,000
3	Urban Housing-cum-Workshed	30,000	14,000	14,000	2,000

Meetings of the Representatives of Apex Handloom Weavers Cooperatives

612. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether a conference or meeting of the representatives of the Apex Handloom Weavers' Cooperatives in the country is proposed to be held to know their difficulties to take up export business directly and to solve them in the interests of handloom weavers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : Government of India, as a regular ongoing exercise, holds periodic meetings with representatives of bodies involved in production of handlooms including with Apex Handloom Weavers Cooperatives to find out difficulties being faced by them in exporting their products and to devise ways and means of increasing handloom exports including direct export by Apex Handloom Weavers Cooperatives.

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर के कपड़े का निर्माण किया जाना

613. श्री **विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल** : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मंत्रालय की वस्त्र समिति ने हाल ही में बंबई में एक सेमिनार का आयोजन किया था ;